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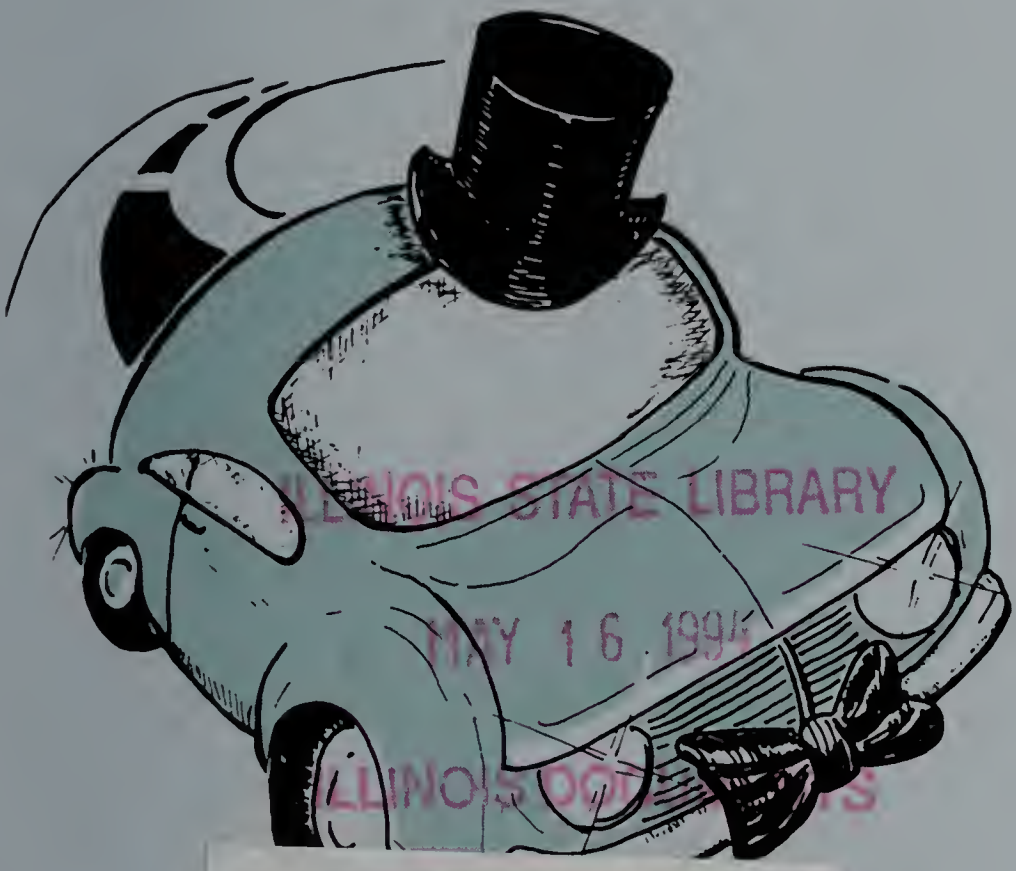
Illinois
Environmental
Proctection Agency

2200 Churchill Road
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

April 1994

a tuned car has that



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AIR of QUALITY

VEHICLE EMISSIONS TESTING IN ILLINOIS

Enhanced Inspection and Maintenance

LOOKING AHEAD

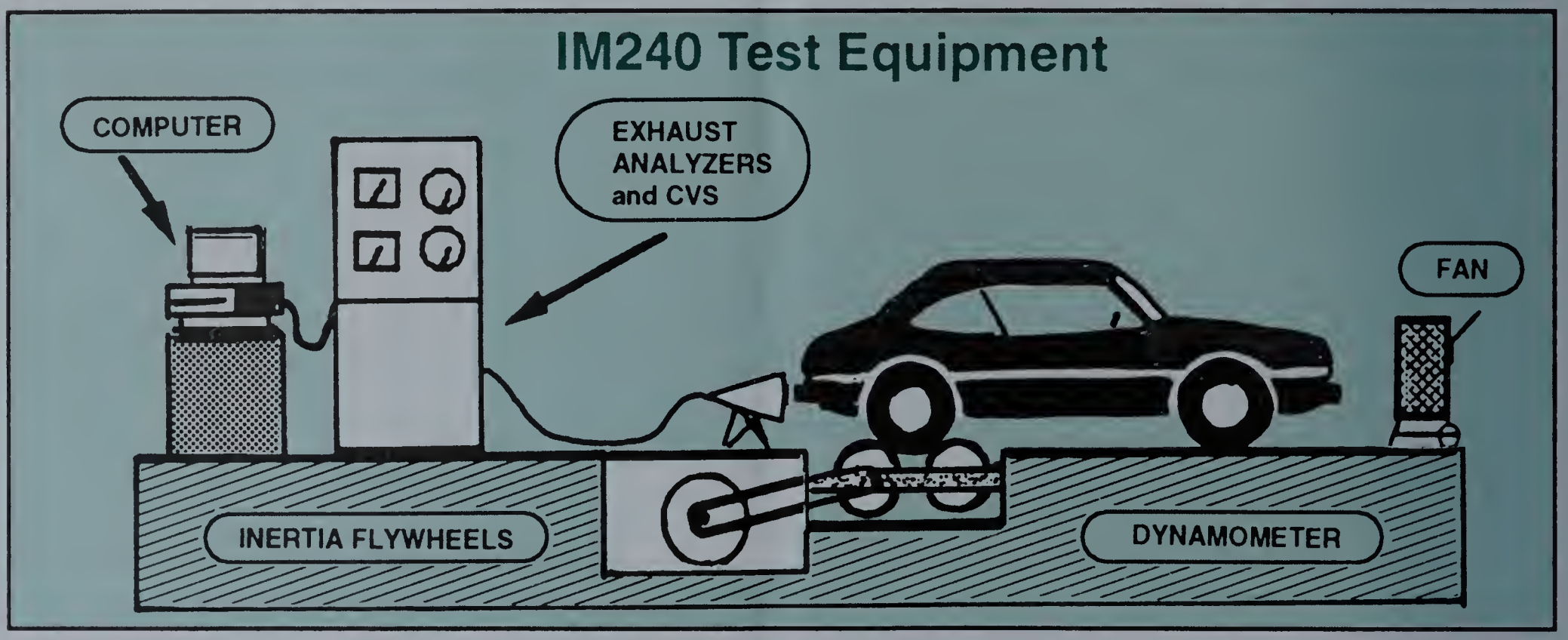
In the future, when your car is due for emissions testing, the test procedure will have changed significantly. The new test procedure, called IM240, will be louder, take a little longer and will be much more efficient in measuring targeted pollutants in vehicles.

The Clean Air Act requires that the testing technology for car emissions be upgraded to do a better job of testing for the types of pollutants that are present in the metropolitan areas of Chicago and East St. Louis. While other areas of the state are not subject to emissions testing, the air quality in the Chicago and East St. Louis metroplitan regions is significantly below accepted standards, and poses certain health threats.

Exhaust emissions from gasoline-powered motor vehicles contain pollutants including hydrocarbon, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen oxides, which form smog.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

The new test will be very effective at identifying high-polluting vehicles and indicating which vehicles need appropriate repairs. When you comply with the new rules and test procedures you are playing a major role in the fight against air pollution. Through this enhanced testing program



- *Vehicle license plate number is entered into computer*
- *Motorist exits vehicle and views test from soundproof booth number is entered*
- *Vehicle exhaust is captured during typical driving cycle*
- *Evaporative canister checked for proper recirculation of fumes into engine*
- *Fuel sytem pressurized and checked for leaks*
- *Test results, diagnostic information and other appropriate information given to motorist*

motor vehicle hydrocarbon emissions are expected to be cut 32% by the year 2000.

THE NEW TEST

The **new** test will be much more stringent and extensive. Test stations will be larger and additional equipment will be installed. Testing devices will be connected to the on-board diagnostics computer and the "purge canister" of your vehicle.

Most 1981 model year and newer vehicles will then be operated at many different speeds to simulate actual road conditions on a treadmill-like device, called a dynamometer for an I/M 240 test. Emission amounts will be detected at various acceleration and deceleration points. The test is named for its 240 second (4 minute) test cycle.

Your fuel system will also be pressure-checked for leaks to ensure that harmful vapors are recirculated to be re-burned, as the system was designed. Under the new testing program, cars will be tested every other year, beginning when the car is two model years old. (For example if you have a 1994 car, it should be tested be tested in 1996, 1998, 2000, etc.)

The new law requires that the areas of the state subjected to vehicle testing be expanded. New areas that will be included are those with the following zip codes:

Chicago Area: 60002, 60010, 60011, 60012, 60013, 60014, 60020, 60021, 60041, 60042, 60050, 60051, 60080, 60081, 60102, 60118, 60136, 60417, 60423, 60449, 60451,

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Metro-East: 62025, 62026, 62034, 62035, 62062, 62208, 62220, 62221, 62222, 62223, 62225, 62232, 62234, 62236, 62269, 62294.

Additional testing stations will be built in the greater Chicago area and in the greater East St. Louis area due to the increased number of vehicles to be tested and the additional time required to perform the tests.

WHAT IF MY CAR FAILS?

It is anticipated that more vehicles will fail the new test. However, proper routine maintenance, such as complete tune-ups and emissions systems checks will help most vehicles pass.

If a vehicle continues to fail the emissions test after being repaired by a qualified repair technician (*a professional auto repair person*), it may qualify for a waiver. Most vehicles should pass the retest after repairs have been made.

Under federal law, waivers can be considered only if:

- All the original emissions-related components are present and properly connected.
- All emissions-related manufacturer recalls have been completed
- At least $450 has been spent on emissions-related repairs which results in an improvement in test results.

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While the $450 minimum waiver expenditure may concern many vehicle owners, it is important to remember that the average vehicle that fails the initial test will **NOT** require $450 worth of repairs. It is estimated that the average repair cost will be about $150, roughly the cost of an emission related tune-up.

IF YOU HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS...

Mailing address:

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Division of Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance
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